

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 03974 040056Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ERDA-05 ERDE-00

OES-03 /074 W

----- 052517

O R 040008Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4389

INFO USCINCSO

PANCANAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 3974

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN, PFOR, PQ

SUBJ: MINISTER-NEGOTIATOR TACK EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN U.S.
NEGOTIATORS

REF: PANAMA 3973

SUMMARY: EMBOFF OBTAINED TODAY COPY OF QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY
REPORTER OF MEXICO'S "EL ESCELSIOR" TO MINISTER-NEGOTIATOR TACK
AND ANSWERS WRITTEN FOR TACK BY CARLOS LOPEZ GUEVARA CONCERNING
SNYDER AMENDMENT AND TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTIONS
WERE PROVOCATIVE AND INVITED A SHARP RESPONSE, ANSWERS WERE FIRM
AND MODERATE. ESSENTIALLY TACK EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE U.S.
EXECUTIVE AND IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. THE TWO NATIONS, HE
SAID, COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON A NEW TREATY ON THE BASIS OF THE
TACK-KISSINGER AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 7, 1974. IN RESPONSE TO
ANOTHER QUESTION HE SAID THE U.S. WAS BOUND BY TREATY NOT TO
INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO THE CANAL ZONE, AND HE HAD
CONFIDENCE THAT THE U.S. WAS LIVING UP TO ITS TREATY COMMITMENT.
CONCERNING MILITARY BASES UNDER A NEW TREATY, BASES WOULD BE
PROGRESSIVELY DIMANTLED UNTIL THEY WERE TOTALLY ELIMINATED. END
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 03974 040056Z

SUMMARY.

1. MEXICAN JOURNALIST JOSE REVELES STATED THAT THE SNYDER AMENDMENT WOULD, OBVIOUSLY, SLOW DOWN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASKED WHETHER PANAMA COULD CONTINUE NEGOTIATING WITH THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND IGNORE THE CONSERVATIVE U.S. CONGRESS. TACK REPLIED THAT THE SNYDER AMENDMENT COULD NOT SLOW DOWN THE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE PANAMA IS NOT NEGOTIATING WITH THE CONGRESS BUT RATHER WITH A NEGOTIATING TEAM DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER ITS CONSTITUTIONAL "TREATY MAKING POWER". NOR COULD THE SNYDER AMENDMENT ANNUL THE EIGHT POINTS, AS BOTH NATIONS HAD COMMITTED THEIR NATIONAL HONOR TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A TREATY WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE EIGHT POINTS. HE SAW THE DECLARATION OF EIGHT POINTS, READ BY SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS, AS THE ANSWER OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE ENTIRE WORLD WHICH HAD TOLD THE U.S. IN MARCH 1973 (AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAMA) TO DECOLONIZE THE CANAL ZONE. TACK EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WHO HAVE OPPOSED THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CHANGE THEIR MINDS ONCE A TREATY WAS SIGNED, BECAUSE SUCH A TREATY WOULD ESTABLISH A "FORMULA THAT WOULD PERMIT THE EFFICIENT AND CONTINUOUS FUNCTIONING OF THE CANAL ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, REASONABLE TOLLS AND NEUTRALITY."

2. THE REPORTER ASKED WHETHER THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. WAS MORE POLITICAL AND MILITARY THAN ECONOMIC IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT IMPORTANT OPINION LEADERS AND LEGISLATORS OF THE U.S. INVOKED SLOGANS SUCH AS "INDIVISIBLE SOVEREIGNTY" AND "LEGITIMATE DEFENSE" AND CITED PANAMA'S RECORD OF HAVING MORE THAN 50 GOVERNMENTS SINCE 1903. TACK ANSWERED SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT DENY THAT PANAMA IS THE SOLE SOVEREIGN IN THE CANAL ZONE. THAT WAS NOT AT QUESTION. HE AGREED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS IN THE CANAL ZONE MORE OF A POLITICAL AND MILITARY THAN ECONOMIC INTEREST. IT WAS THE OVERWHELMING U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN PANAMA THAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS CAUSES OF CONFLICT. THE NEW TREATY WOULD SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY PROGRESSIVELY REDUCING THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN PANAMA UNTIL IT DISAPPEARED.

3. TACK WAS ASKED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO TO LEGALIZE THE SITUATION (THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN PANAMA). WHAT THREAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PANAMA 03974 040056Z

DID THEY SIGNIFY FOR PANAMA AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES? WHAT WAS THE PRICE (BEING PAID) FOR THE TRAINING (IN THE ZONE) OF UNITS WHICH WOULD BE USED FOR THE REPRESSION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS? REVELES SUGGESTED THAT THERE WERE NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS STORED IN THE ZONE. TACK REPLIED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS OBLIGATED TO RESPECT THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO OVER THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF LATIN AMERICA. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT U.S. WAS COMPLYING WITH THAT TREATY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, TACK SAID THAT PANAMANIAN
WERE QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER THE CANAL AND COULD TAKE OVER
IMMEDIATELY ALL SECURITY POSITIONS FROM WHICH THEY WERE
PRESENTLY BARRED. SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE WORKERS WERE ALREADY
PANAMANIAN
AND THE GOVERNMENT IS TRAINING THE PANAMANIAN PERSONNEL NECES-
SARY FOR PROGRESSIVELY TAKING OVER THE OTHER TECHNICAL FUNCTIONS.

5. TACK AGREED THAT PANAMA HAD SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THE CANAL
PROBLEM MORE THAN JUST A BILATERAL ONE. PANAMA HAD SUPPORT OF
ALL LATIN AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES FOR "PERFECTING ITS
INDEPENDENCE AND REAQUIRING THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLOIT
RATIONALLY ITS MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCE FOR ITS SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT".

6. COMMENT: TACK'S RESPONSES AS WRITTEN BY LOPEZ WERE MODERATE
AND NON-PROVOCATIVE. THEY APPEAR TO BE FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GOP'S
DESIRE TO KEEP SITUATION CALM IN PANAMA IN WAKE OF SNYDER
AMENDMENT. AGAIN A KEY PART WAS ITS ASSERTION OF
CONFIDENCE IN THE U.S. EXECUTIVE.

JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS, SNYDER ADMENDMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PANAMA03974
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750231-1004
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750783/aaaacwfn.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PANAMA 3973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER-NEGOTIATOR TACK EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN U.S. NEGOTIATORS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, (TACK, JUAN ANTONIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006